

NAVY PRAISES AID TO BRONX TENANTS

Head of Mayor's Group Says
It Prevented a 'Paradise'
for Rent Gougers

Joseph Platzker, chairman of a committee set up by Mayor La Guardia to aid 613 families in thirteen Bronx buildings taken over by the Navy to provide quarters for Waves and Spars, announced yesterday in closing his office that "if the city had not set up this committee, it would have been a racketeer's paradise." He was referring to rent gouging.

Mr. Platzker, who is also Assistant Commissioner of the Department of Housing and Buildings, made public a report he will submit to Mayor La Guardia today and a note of appreciation from the Navy for the committee's work.

All of the 613 families, he said, would be out by Feb. 20, the deadline. He added that 575 of the tenants had found new homes, all but about forty of them moving within a two-mile radius and receiving the benefit of the government grant for moving expenses.

He disclosed that the families were paying a total annual rent of \$400,000. Twenty-five per cent of the tenants said they were paying 5 to 20 per cent more than for apartments they vacated. The entire project, he reported, involved the shifting of 1,860 persons, including 300 school children.

The committee, he said, was instrumental in getting refunds of more than \$1,000 for tenants who acted hastily and put deposits on apartments they later did not like. The chief aim of the committee, Mr. Platzker said, was to keep hardships to a minimum.

Captain William F. Amsden, U. S. N., head of the Naval Training Station at Hunter College, in a letter to Mr. Platzker noted the "invaluable service to the Navy and our country" of Mr. Platzker and his committee. He said they were "to be highly commended for their splendid work and cooperation."